

## NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF PARENTS OF DIABETIC CHILDREN.

By J. W. Farquhar, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. (Pp. 28; figs. 2. 5s). Edinburgh and London: S. & S. Livingstone, 1970.

THIS little book of 27 pages adequately covers what parents of diabetic children need to know to enable them to manage their child's disability successfully.

However, urine testing four times daily would seem to be a standard of perfection beyond reach and counting the total number of urine tests which are positive or negative for sugar between each clinic visit does not seem to be of any great value as a guide to the overall control of the child's diabetes. A deep intramuscular injection of glucagon, given by the parent, into the upper part of the buttock is recommended for the treatment of a child in hypoglycaemic coma. The fact that there is no mention of rapid transfer to hospital of such a child for intravenous glucose is rather surprising. It is debatable whether the parents' attention need be drawn to the long-term complications of the disease.

These are all minor criticisms and I have no doubt that parents of a diabetic child would find this book a very valuable additional source of information to that received on the ward and at the diabetic clinic. S.L.C.

## BAILLIÈRE'S ATLAS OF FEMALE ANATOMY. Revised by Katharine F. Armstrong, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N.(Lond.); colour plates by Douglas J. Kidd. Seventh Edition. (Pp 32; plates 5, 25s). London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell, 1969.

THE text of this book is an elementary account of the structure and function of the different systems of the body. It is clearly written and used in conjunction with the atlas would be very useful to student nurses. One inaccuracy occurs on page 25 where the parasympathetic nervous system is stated as relaxing lung muscle.

The atlas has five plates (41 figures in all) illustrating the skeletal, vascular, muscular, and nervous systems as well as many of the viscera. Five of the figures are 16 inches long and illustrate the whole body thus facilitating orientation. All the figures are well drawn and easily understood. A few illustrations of the position and structure of the male reproductive organs would contribute to the usefulness of the atlas.

This publication is confidently recommended to student nurses and those studying elementary anatomy without proper museum and dissecting room facilities. T.J.H.

## DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM. Articles published by the British Medical Journal. (Pp. 331. 40s). London: British Medical Association, 1969.

THIS is an interesting and satisfactory book of its kind, if its origin as a series of articles does make it incomplete. It will be helpful to students as a primer of gastroenterology, and to practitioners as a brief account of the present state of the subject. The surgical section is of great interest, and there are some good medical articles, especially those on liver cirrhosis, malabsorption, bacillary dysentery and dysphagia. That the discussions of gastric and duodenal ulcer are less helpful, reflects the confusion in the mind of the profession, and our imperfect knowledge of causation. Paediatric and tropical gastroenterology are not dealt with. A different book would have to be written for the Indian practitioner, who has infinitely more gastrointestinal problems than his western colleague, and more scope for doing good.

The historian may see some significance in the book dealing at one extreme with "wind", "flatulence", "dyspepsia" and "indigestion" (words which now belong only to a patient's vocabulary) and at the other discussing liver cirrhosis with economy of hypothesis and absence of myth. Gastroenterology is shown in its transition. J.S.L.